

AROUND . . . INDIAN COUNTRY. . .

SOUTHWEST

RESIDENT MANAGEMENT AT NAVAJO

On December 2, 1996, the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) and the Tsel Bahaa Resident Management Corporation (TBRMC) executed a contract for the TBRMC to manage 74 units in the communities of White Cone and Jeddito, Arizona. The contract is believed to be the first example of full management responsibilities by a resident organization of Indian housing units.

The TBRMC received a Tenant Opportunities Program grant in 1995 which provided funding for financial, maintenance, occupancy, and management training. A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into with NHA in March 1996 that outlined the intentions and responsibilities of both parties. TBRMC was incorporated under the State of Arizona and applied for its tax exempt 501(c)(3) status through the Internal Revenue Service.

The resident organization believes that the management contract is only a first step in empowering residents with a range of economic and self-sufficiency opportunities. The accomplishments of the TBRMC serve as a positive example of how partnerships and cooperation can further the objectives of local control and self-determination.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENHANCES QUALITY OF LIFE IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

SAN CARLOS APACHE: Bylas, AZ, is a small rural San Carlos Apache community which until recently did not have adequate health care facilities for its residents. The population of Bylas is just 2,200 people yet last year its clinic recorded 12,000 individual patient visits. According to the guidelines of the Indian Health Service (IHS), this size caseload warrants a staff of nearly 40 and at least two full-time physicians. The Bylas Clinic could only accommodate a full time staff of 12, including one physician.

Using a \$743,695 Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) which was matched with \$43,757 from IHS and \$73,382 of its own funds, the San Carlos Apache Tribe expanded, modernized and renamed the clinic in honor of Clarence Wesley, late Chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. The modernization and expansion of the building will allow the health center to increase staff numbers to levels appropriate for the community. Since the new health center opened in November, 1996, more than 1,000 patients have benefitted from the modern facility.

Other community development programs which the Tribe is currently involved with include the administration of a shopping center funded with an ICDB grant of \$700,000; the rehabilitation of 28 homes funded with an ICDB grant of \$300,000; and new home construction funded by a \$663,000 Home Program grant.

[CLINIC STORY REPRINTED FROM "INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY." 2/24-3/31, 1997, EDITION]

CHEMEHUEVI: The Chemehuevi Tribe of Southeastern California has successfully completed two community development projects which will significantly improve the quality of life for its tribal members.

The Tribe recently completed a 3,566 square foot health clinic which it will lease to the Indian Health Service. The facility, which includes medical, dental counseling and pharmaceutical services, was funded with a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant matched with \$5,000 from the Indian Health Service and the Tribe. The Chemehuevi Tribe is proud of this modern health facility for which it held an open house March 14, 1997.

The Chemehuevi Tribe is also in the process of completing improvements to the Tribe's water system. This project was funded with a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant matched with \$300,000 from the Indian Health Service, \$19,700 from the resort water department and \$36,000 from the Tribe.

YAVAPAI APACHE: The Yavapai Apache Tribe, central AZ, has completed three community development projects (with a fourth in the planning stage) which will improve the quality of life in its communities.

On October 5, 1996, the Tribe held a simultaneous open house for a new gymnasium, an office building and a multipurpose center. The gymnasium and office building were each funded with \$450,000 Community Development Block Grants. The office building contains 6,000 square feet of space and will provide offices for the Community Health Representative Program, the Emergency Service Program, the Cultural Resources Protection Program, environmental services, and education and library programs. The 4,890 square foot multipurpose center was funded with a \$432,500 Community Development Block Grant matched with \$7,417 from the Tribe.

Currently in the planning stages is a new fire station project.

LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS

The Southwest ONAP assisted the White Mountain Apache Tribe in appealing a decision by the Arizona Department of Commerce to disapprove the tribe's application for Low Income Housing Tax Credits. HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity negotiated a settlement in late January with the State of Arizona to change the rating system to allow Indian Tribes to compete equally with non-Indian applicants for tax credits.

In addition, the White Mountain Apache Tribe received a set-aside of tax credits from the 1997 allocation to be applied to the HOME Grant that was awarded in Fiscal Year 1996.

PARTNERSHIPS TO MAXIMIZE FUNDING

A good example of implementing partnership initiatives comes from the Southern Plains ONAP. Their office has formed a partnership with the local BIA, U. S. Corps of Engineers, U. S. Geological Survey, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Indian Health Service to ensure that funding from all agencies will be maximized without duplication of efforts.

ALASKA

JOBS AND MONEY STAY IN THE VILLAGE, PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE...

During a technical assistance visit to the village of New Stuyahok, a HUD Representative had the opportunity to tour a community store, funded from a 1990 ICDBG grant.

The cornerstone of the village economy, this store plays many roles. It is a source of essential goods, a gathering place, a bank, a provider of jobs, an employment training center, income to the village council, and a source of pride to the community.

The doors to *Panarqukuk Store* in New Stuyahok opened in December, 1991. It was an instant success. It not only exceeded expectations in its financial objectives, but has become a focal point in the village and a symbol of how much can be achieved through a strong sense of community and working together.

Initially conceived back in 1986 by **New Stuyahok Ltd.**, an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) village corporation, the store reached fruition through contributions of many entities. Through New Stuyahok Ltd.'s cooperative efforts with the **New Stuyahok Traditional Council**, a \$350,000 **Indian Community Development Block Grant** (ICDBG) was obtained in 1990 to build the store.

Other partners contributed as well: the **City of Stuyahok** provided the land and loans were obtained for equipment and inventory from the **Community Enterprise Development Corporation** and the **State of Alaska Rural Economic Development Initiative program**. Under the direction of a neighboring village corporation, **Choggiung Ltd**, construction was completed nearly a year ahead of schedule, with the maximum possible benefit from the force account construction jobs achieved through job sharing.

Success is witnessed by the three to fourfold increase in sales, the vast variety of goods available, and the reasonable prices. Value added features of the store include extending credit when needed and the cashing of checks as a service to the elders.

Success is also noted by the payoff of the two loans ahead of schedule and without missing a single payment.

The spirit of cooperation and sharing that made the project possible continues in the running of the store. Just as during construction, the store jobs are shared. Last year 25 people were gainfully employed at the store. It often is the first real job for many. In addition, a training program is open to local high school students to interest/educate them in the retail trade and basic small business practices.

So successful is the store that the village has invited others in the region to come and see how the store is run, so that other villages can benefit from this example.

Built on City land, owned by the Tribal Council, operated by the village corporation, and supported by the community, the store is tangible evidence of what can be accomplished by working together. Money and jobs stay in the village plus much much more.

SOUTHERN PLAINS

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES HELD

Saturday, March 15, 1997, the Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma had a groundbreaking ceremony for their new Black Hawk Health Center to be located 6 miles south of Stroud, OK.

SPONAP WELCOMES NEW IHAs

In the past 18 months there have been eight new Indian Housing Authorities formed in the Southern Plains region. One IHA was formed in Louisiana and the other seven are in Oklahoma. The new IHAs are:

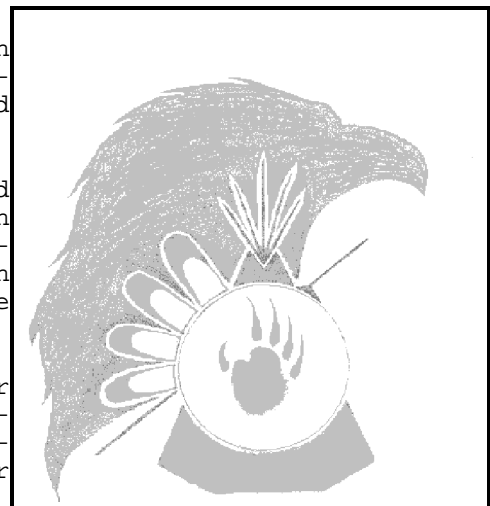
- ✧ Housing Authority of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe, Marksville, LA
- ✧ Housing Auth. of the Citizen Bank of Potawatomi, Shawnee, OK
- ✧ Housing Authority of the Kickapoo Tribe of OK, McLoud, OK
- ✧ Miami Tribal Housing Authority, Miami, OK
- ✧ Housing Authority of the Iowa Tribe, Perkins, OK
- ✧ Housing Authority of the Modoc Tribe, Miami, OK
- ✧ O-Gah-Pah (Quapaw) Housing Authority, Quapaw, OK
- ✧ Housing Authority of the Wyandotte Tribe, Wyandotte, OK

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Southern Plains ONAP and the Native American Heritage Month Committee sponsored a design competition for logos to be used on letterhead and internal correspondence.

The winners were selected by a committee and Wayne Sims, the Administrator of the Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs, presented savings bonds to the winners of the design competition during the Native American Heritage Month program.

Michael Perry, a 15 year old Apache tribal member submitted the winning design for internal correspondence and the winning design for the letterhead logo was submitted by Byers Baken a member of the Chickasaw Nation.



Logo designed by Byers Baken a member of the Chickasaw Nation

NORTHERN PLAINS

SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe (SWST) in South Dakota was awarded \$800,000 in the FY 1996 ICDBG funding round. This grant will be used for a business expansion of Dakota Western Corporation (DWC), a tribally owned and operated plastic bag manufacturer that employs approximately 40 tribal members with 28 more expected to be hired. This was the tribe's second ICDBG for expansion of this very successful business.

ICDBG funds awarded to SWST in FY 1992 were used to expand DWC which has continued to prosper under the leadership of Mr. Tim Azure, DWC's Corporate Executive Officer. Mr. Azure has been responsible for implementing an aggressive marketing campaign that resulted in the need for additional expansion.

According to independent market studies, the plastic bag business is anticipated to grow by 5 to 7% per annum through the year 2000. DWC plans to capitalize on the anticipated growth by diversifying its product. The ICDBG funding will be used to increase the size of the plant and to buy equipment that will enable DWC to produce plastic in bulk for re-sale to smaller operations and to venture into plastic mulch cover which is in high demand in agriculture. Contracts for plastic wrappings used by the fast food industry have also been targeted.

DWC has helped the tribal community as a whole by providing stable jobs with an average wage of \$7.00 per hour along with health and retirement benefits. The skill level needed to perform the majority of the jobs can be obtained with minimal training, and this opens a window of opportunity to low skilled workers.

Also, DWC actively recruits and provides a preference to tenants of low income housing administered by the tribal housing authority.

WELFARE-TO-WORK * INFORMATION EXCHANGE

President Clinton and Secretary Cuomo have challenged all Federal government offices to find ways to assist contractors and partners to hire persons on welfare.

We know that Tribes and IHAs are thinking very creatively to develop opportunities within your communities, and we are certain that there are many success stories that can be shared with other Tribes/IHAs facing similar situations.

Welfare-to-work initiatives within each Tribe will differ.

- ✧ Some will be oriented to training programs and/or supportive services, such as child care and transportation;
- ✧ Some will be focusing on establishing/attracting new economic development opportunities within the Tribal area; and,
- ✧ Some will focus on ways to encourage contractors and businesses to hire qualified welfare recipients whenever possible.

The Dream Catcher will continue to feature articles on ideas and programs that are working and on available services that Tribes may wish to use.

Please let us know what you are doing to help in move from welfare to work, and we will share your success stories with Indian Country.

**Drop a note to the Dream Catcher or call Jan Engle, Editor, at (206) 220-5273.
E-mail: Jan_Engle@hud.gov**